

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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New Bulletin on Nutrition Issued by N.C.A. Labs

A new 93-page bulletin, *Retention of Nutrients during Canning*, was issued this week by the Association's Research Laboratories, and copies are being mailed to members. Extra copies are available upon request.

Embodying results of the National Canners Association-Can Manufacturers Institute Nutrition Program which has been under way for some 13 years, the new bulletin was prepared under supervision of the Nutrition Executive Committee and serves as a companion work to the book published in 1950, *Canned Foods in Human Nutrition*.

Whereas the purpose of the earlier volume was to set forth the results of research on the nutrient content of a wide range of canned foods as they appear on the market, the present bulletin brings together the results of studies carried on at the same time but having to do with the degree of retention of nutrients in the canning process, and the factors that may affect retention.

The bulletin is divided into two main parts. The first of these deals with the effect of commercial canning on nutrients, and presents the results of cannery surveys conducted on fruits, juices, vegetables, marine products, and meat products. The second part deals with studies pointing the way to improved practices in canning, raw product handling, or storage, from the standpoint of nutrient retention in the product delivered to the consumer.

Mexican Farm Labor Program

Agreement between the United States and Mexico on methods of improving operations through which Mexican migratory workers are temporarily employed in United States agriculture was formalized at Mexico City April 14 with an exchange of notes signed by representatives of the two governments.

The exchange marked simultaneous approval by both governments of a

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Wage-Hour Hearings Continue

The Senate Labor Subcommittee this week continued hearings on legislation to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act. Representatives of labor organizations, including George Meany of the AFL and Walter Reuther of the CIO, testified in support of a \$1.25 statutory minimum wage, extended coverage, and repeal of all exemptions, including the seasonal agricultural and fish processing exemptions from overtime.

Senator Douglas (Ill.), chairman of the subcommittee, announced that hearings will continue next week. Senators who have introduced wage-hour legislation will be heard first and will be followed by some 75 employer groups.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers will be given time equal to that given the labor union representatives, but, because of the large number of employer groups wishing to testify, Chairman Douglas announced that it will be necessary to limit time for their oral testimony.

Vegetables for Processing

The prospective 1955 planted acreage of eight vegetables for commercial processing is about 3 percent less than last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. These crops usually account for nearly 90 percent of the acreage of the 11 vegetables for which the USDA makes reports. Following are the acreages in prospect at the present time:

	10-year ave. 1944-53 (acres)	1954 Re- vised (acres)	1955 Pros- pective (acres)
Beans, snap.....	131,360	158,470	144,250
Beets for canning..	17,380	16,500	16,930
Cabbage for kraut (contract).....	10,060	9,770	7,840
Corn.....	509,240	484,010	436,480
Cucumbers for pickles.....	140,100	140,480	136,850
Peas.....	460,920	452,000	462,880
Spinach, winter and early spring.....	15,800	12,500	12,600
Tomatoes.....	439,400	273,850	295,300
Total, 8 crops.....	1,715,160	1,557,180	1,513,130

Canned Foods To Be Exposed in Next Nuclear Explosion

The nuclear explosion scheduled tentatively for April 26 at the Nevada proving grounds is the test in the current 1955 series to which canned foods will be exposed. Placed at the test site, at various locations, are the 25,000 samples contributed by more than 150 members of the N.C.A.

Civil defense exercises and demonstrations will be witnessed by several hundred invited civilian observers, it is announced by the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and more than 100 firms and industries will participate.

The canned foods tests have been planned by a general committee consisting of representatives of the N.C.A., the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the Glass Container Manufacturers Institute. A technical operating crew of representatives of these three organizations has been at work at the test site for some time preparing the samples for the explosion, which is scheduled for April 26, barring last-minute postponements because of weather conditions.

Publicity on A-Bomb Tests

The forthcoming nuclear test of canned foods at the Nevada test site was the subject of a feature article released April 11 to their 650 newspapers by the Newspaper Enterprise Association (NEA).

The feature, written by Kenneth O. Gilmore, NEA Washington staff correspondent, described the manner in which the tests will be conducted and some of the preparations for them that are now under way.

Quotations were made from recent statements by President George B. Morrell, Jr., to the effect that the canning industry looks upon the forthcoming tests as a "constructive opportunity to contribute to the national defense." Reference was made to the fact that laboratory tests have dem-

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Tomatoes for Processing

Reports on intentions to plant tomatoes for commercial processing in 1955 indicate an acreage increase this year of about 8 percent over 1954, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1955 plantings of processing tomatoes will total 295,300 acres. This compares with the revised estimate of 273,850 acres planted in 1954 and the 1944-53 average plantings of 439,400 acres.

The 1955 estimate is based on reports from processors in early April giving information on the acreage they intend to contract and plant this year. The state acreages for 1955 are interpretations of these reports from processors and are based on past relationships between such intentions reports and the acreage actually planted.

Abandonment of planted acreage averaged about 3 percent annually during the most recent 10-year period. If such a loss occurs on the indicated 295,300 acres, about 286,400 acres will be harvested in 1955. This compares with 266,450 acres harvested in 1954 and the average of 425,900 acres.

Following is the acreage of tomatoes for processing indicated for 1955, as reported by USDA April 21:

State	Planted Acreage			Percent change from 1954
	10-year ave. 1944-53	1954 Re-vised	1955 Indicated	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	revised
New York...	23,100	12,000	13,800	+15
New Jersey...	33,300	24,900	25,100	+1
Pennsylvania...	28,200	22,500	23,500	+4
Ohio...	25,600	13,700	13,700	0
Indiana...	59,600	30,200	33,200	+10
Illinois...	11,900	10,100	10,000	-1
Michigan...	7,800	5,600	5,600	0
Wisconsin...	1,500	1,000	1,000	0
Iowa...	2,200	1,400	1,400	0
Missouri...	7,700	1,600	1,200	-25
Delaware...	7,000	3,600	3,200	-11
Maryland...	34,800	14,200	13,800	-3
Virginia...	22,900	13,700	15,000	+9
N. Carolina...	2,000	800	1,100	+38
Florida...	4,200	27,500	7,700	+3
Kentucky...	3,000	1,100	1,100	0
Tennessee...	3,600	600	600	0
Arkansas...	10,600	3,000	2,200	-27
Oklahoma...	1,700	200	200	0
Texas...	21,800	15,800	5,000	-68
Colorado...	4,200	3,000	3,300	+10
Utah...	7,400	5,700	6,600	+16
California...	111,300	279,500	105,000	+32
Other states ¹ ...	4,000	2,150	2,000	-7
U. S. Total...	439,400	273,850	295,300	+7.8

¹ Ala., Ariz., Conn., Ga., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va. * Revised.

Beets for Canning

An increase of about 3 percent over 1954 plantings of canning beets is indicated for 1955, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If these acreage prospects materialize, the 1955 plantings of canning beets will total 16,930 acres. Last year 16,500 acres were planted and for the 1944-53 period plantings averaged 17,380 acres.

Following is the acreage in prospect at the present time, based on reports received by USDA in early April:

State	Planted Acreage			Percent change from 1954
	10-year ave. 1944-53	1954 Re-vised	1955 Indicated	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	revised
New York...	4,260	4,500	4,300	-4
Michigan...	1,170	820	800	-2
Wisconsin...	6,820	6,800	7,400	+9
Oregon...	1,700	1,300	1,400	+8
Other states ¹ ...	3,420	* 3,080	3,030	-2
U. S. Total...	17,380	*16,500	16,930	+2.6

¹ Calif., Colo., Ill., Ind., La., Me., Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Tex., Utah and Wash. * Revised.

Cucumbers for Pickles

A decrease of about 8 percent from the 1954 plantings of cucumbers for pickles is indicated for 1955, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If early-season prospects materialize, the 1955 plantings of cucumbers for pickles will total 136,850 acres. This compares with 149,480 acres planted in 1954 and the 10-year average of 140,100 acres.

Assuming average abandonment of 9 percent, in line with recent years, there would be about 124,500 acres

harvested. This compares with 140,780 acres harvested in 1954 and an average of 127,330 acres for the preceding 10-year period.

The principal producing state last year, Michigan, indicates 34,200 acres of cucumbers for pickles this year, down 10 percent. Wisconsin reports 21,500 acres indicated for this year, down 10 percent. The third largest producer, North Carolina, indicates 13,600 acres, down 20 percent.

1954 Pack of Spinach and March 1 Stocks

The 1954 pack of canned spinach totaled 3,871,023 actual cases compared with the 1953 pack of 5,158,927 cases, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

State	1953 (actual cases)	1954 (a)
New York...	58,808	(a)
Md. and Del...	290,905	191,301
Ark., Mo., and Okla...	1,246,038	945,549
Texas...	1,040,912	(a)
California...	2,270,657	2,387,079
Other states...	251,517	347,094
U. S. Total...	5,158,927	3,871,023

(a) Included in other states, which are Miss., N. Y., Tenn., Texas, Va., Wash., and Wis.

Following is a summary of stocks of canned spinach in canners' hands March 1, the first report on spinach stocks issued by the Division:

State	Canners Stocks, March 1 (actual cases)
N. Y., Md., and Va...	50,980
Ozarks...	238,310
California...	274,853
Other states...	196,675
U. S. Total...	760,818

Other states include Miss., Tenn., Texas, Wash., and Wis.

Stocks of Canned Foods April 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned apples, applesauce, RSP cherries, green and wax beans, corn, peas, and pumpkin and squash have been issued by the N.C.A. Division

of Statistics, and detailed reports covering April 1 stocks have been mailed to all canners packing these items.

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Total Supply		Canner Stocks, April 1		Season Shipments to April 1	
			1953	1954	1954	1955	1954	1955
			(thousands of cases)					
Apples.....	Aug.	6/10	*3,116	*4,849	693	2,220	2,423	2,629
Applesauce.....	Aug.	actual	*11,366	*15,554	3,220	6,402	8,146	9,151
R&P cherries.....	July	actual	3,962	3,253	707	521	3,254	2,732
Green and wax beans.....	July	actual	24,229	*31,117	4,399	9,222	19,929	21,864
Corn.....	Aug.	actual	38,562	41,906	13,722	15,764	24,840	26,142
Peas.....	June	actual	34,786	31,488	8,309	5,796	26,477	25,692
Pumpkin and squash.....	July	actual	3,876	3,145	1,596	297	2,370	2,848

* Includes pack from beginning of season in year shown to April 1.

Trade Agreements Manual

The U. S. Tariff Commission has issued a *Trade Agreements Manual*. Designed to provide the answers to certain common questions about U. S. trade agreements, the manual is a summary of selected data relating to the various trade agreements that the United States has entered into under the authority of the Trade Agreements Act of 1934 and the subsequent extensions of that act.

Part I of the manual considers U. S. trade agreement obligations, present and past. Among other things, it includes lists of countries with which the U. S. had trade agreement obligations in effect on March 1, 1955; lists of countries with which we have had trade agreement obligations in the past; and a list of countries from which we have withdrawn trade agreement concessions. It also includes a master list of all agreements that the U. S. has concluded under the Trade Agreements Act, whether or not those agreements are still in force, and a brief legislative history of the trade agreements program.

Part II of the manual is devoted to information about the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Among other things, it includes a list of the countries that were contracting parties to the General Agreement on March 1, 1955; a list of the countries that have withdrawn from the agreement; and a list showing the dates of signature of the Ancey and Torquay protocols by contracting parties (as distinct from acceding countries). It also includes a master list of all accessions to, and withdrawals from, the General Agreement between October 30, 1947, and March 1, 1955, and a list of the conferences, sessions, and meetings pertaining to the General Agreement that have been held since 1947.

Copies of the *Trade Agreements Manual* may be obtained from the Secretary, Tariff Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

Canned Baby Food Stocks

Details of the canned baby food supply, stock and shipment situation are reported by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics as follows:

	1954	1955
	(thousands of dozens)	
Canner stocks, Jan. 1.....	65,305	74,083
Pack, Jan.-March.....	32,654	33,712
Supply.....	97,959	107,795
Canner stocks, April 1.....	59,329	68,659
Canner shipments during March	12,871	13,846
Canner shipments, Jan.-March.	38,630	39,136

Cuban Labeling Requirement

Cuba has modified its requirement that imported packaged foodstuffs be labeled in Spanish and again has postponed its effective date, this time to June 30, according to *Foreign Commerce Weekly*, official publication of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Among the foodstuffs now exempted from the requirement are those bearing illustrated labels clearly portraying the product.

Farm Journal Magazine

The May issue of *Farm Journal* magazine will feature canned fruits in the food section. The article is entitled "Canned Fruits Dressed Up for Dessert" by Helen Wahlberg. It features dessert recipes using canned fruit cocktail, cherries, apricots, plums, pineapple, peaches, and pears.

The introduction of the article says, "In most parts of the country, you'll have to wait a month or two to get fresh fruit 'right off the tree.' But there's plenty of canned fruit available now—your own home-packed, or from the grocer's shelf. And canned fruit provides tasty makings for desserts."

A full-page color photograph shows the five desserts attractively served.

Publicity on A-Bomb Tests

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onstrated the protective value of canned foods under conditions of atomic, biological and chemical warfare, but that this is the first time these foods will have been exposed to actual atomic bomb explosion conditions.

In the article it was stated that canning industry representatives and civil defense officials will be particularly interested in studying the effects on canned foods that are heavily exposed to radiation and close to the blast wave. It quotes C. A. Greenleaf, Associate Director of the N.C.A. Washington Research Laboratory, as stating that "Homeless and hungry people will need these canned foods as rations in an emergency. It is necessary to know that they are safe to handle and eat."

Usage by newspapers of such NEA features ranges from about 350 to 600. It is anticipated, because of the general news-desk interest in atomic bomb explosions current today, that the canned foods feature will come close to maximum distribution.

Status of Legislation

Wage-Hour legislation—Senate Labor Subcommittee continued public hearings on legislation to amend Fair Labor Standards Act (see story, page 191).

Trade Agreements Act—H. R. 1 was passed by House Feb. 18. Senate Finance Committee began voting on amendments. Committee meets again April 25.

Renegotiation—House Ways and Means Committee will meet April 25 in executive session to consider H. R. 4904, to extend Renegotiation Act of 1951 for two years as recommended by the President.

Water pollution—Senate Public Works Subcommittee heard government witnesses April 22. Hearings continue April 25.

Statehood—H. R. 2535 was reported by House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee March 3. House Rules Committee concluded public hearings April 20. No date set for further consideration.

Hells Canyon Dam—Anderson subcommittee of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee announced public hearings will be resumed May 2.

USDA appropriations—H. R. 5239 was passed by House March 28. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee completed hearings and began marking up bill.

Antitrust penalties—H. R. 3659 was passed by House March 29. Senate Judiciary Committee has not scheduled hearings.

Renegotiation Reports

The Renegotiation Board has announced that, until further notice, all persons having a fiscal year beginning in 1954 and ending in 1955 are excused from filing financial statements and standard commercial article reports for such fiscal year. Statements and reports will still be required for any fiscal year ending in 1954 or for the 1954 calendar year.

The suspension of these reporting requirements under the Renegotiation Act of 1951, as amended, has been authorized to enable the Board to adapt its reporting requirements to the situation which may exist after Congress has acted on pending proposals to extend the Renegotiation Act through the calendar year 1955.

Forthcoming Meetings

- May 1-4—Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., 45d Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C.
 May 1-4—Super Market Institute, Annual Meeting, Cleveland
 May 9-11—Tenth Industrial Wastes Conference, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.
 May 13-14—Pennsylvania Cannery Association, Fourth Annual Sales Clinic, Bedford Springs Hotel, Bedford
 May 15-18—U. S. Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention and Exposition, Miami Beach, Fla.
 May 19-20—National Cannery Association, Spring Meeting of Board of Directors and Administrative Council, Washington, D. C.
 May 25—Tidewater Cannery Association of Virginia, Inc., Annual Meeting, The Tides Inn, Irvington
 June 12-13—Michigan Cannery and Freezers Association, Spring Meeting, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City
 June 12-14—Institute of Food Technologists, Annual Meeting, Columbus, Ohio
 June 12-16—National Association of Retail Grocers, 56th Annual Convention, Navy Pier, Chicago
 June 20-22—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Midyear Meeting, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
 June 21-22—Maine Cannery Association, Summer Meeting, Lakewood
 June 23-24—California Olive Association, Technical Conference, Brockway, Lake Tahoe
 June 23-24—Processed Apples Institute, Inc., Annual Meeting, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
 July 27-Aug. 5—New York State Cannery and Freezers Association, Annual Mold Count School, New York State Experiment Station, Geneva
 August 21-24—National Industrial Stores Association, 29th Annual Convention, Hotel Shoreham, Washington, D. C.
 September 11-14—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Midyear Meeting, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Laboratory Reports Research on Kraut Waste

Purification of kraut canning waste by aeration is the subject of a laboratory study carried on last year in the N.C.A. Washington Research Laboratory, and the results have now been compiled in Research Report No. 1-55, entitled "Treatment of Cannery Wastes by Aeration. IV 1954 Laboratory Studies on Kraut Wastes." Copies may be obtained by those interested on request from the Washington Laboratory.

Although the treatment was conducted on a small laboratory scale, the operations were similar to those that have been explored on a pilot plant scale with several other wastes. Results indicated that satisfactory treatment may be possible with less than four hours average detention time during treatment. However, mechanical features and operating economy of larger scale treatment remain yet to be worked out.

Mexican Farm Labor Program

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series of recommendations made last fall by the Joint Migratory Labor Commission composed of representatives of the Departments of State, Justice, Labor and Agriculture, and the Mexican Ministries of Foreign Relations, Labor and Interior.

The State Department states that "the approved recommendations in substance call for the following measures to improve existing operations under the Migrant Labor Agreement of 1951, as amended, and to deter the illegal migratory movement:

"An increase in United States border patrol personnel and equipment; coordination of all U. S. border patrolling activities; and continuation and improvement of present coordination with Mexico.

"The proposal of U. S. legislation to deter employers from utilizing illegal entrants and to punish persons engaged in their transportation.

"Improvement and extension of certain fences, and construction of towers, to deter illegal crossings.

"Use of an identification device for Mexican workers.

"Continuation of Mexico's present practice of transporting illegal entrants to the interior of Mexico.

"Prevention by Mexico of unlawful emigration of workers.

"Improvement of Mexican border patrol and its coordination with U. S. border patrol action.

"Reduction in number of copies of work contracts.

"Reduction in number of copies of forms required of employers for contracting purposes.

"Interchange of the two governments' instructions on operations, interpretations and administration of the migrant labor program.

"Efforts to be made by both governments to simplify procedures for the return of mentally ill Mexican agricultural workers under contract.

"Procedures to cover cost of return transportation if the worker abandons his work without justified cause.

"The addition of more specific items to the work contract's present schedule of benefits for account of occupational risks.

"Improvement of Mexico's controls to prevent the concentration of excess workers at migratory stations.

"Discontinuance of migratory stations in Mexico within 160 kilometers of the border.

"Joint development of an information program through the appropriate agencies of the two governments."

Railroad Freight Rates

Major railroads and freight associations have asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to make permanent the freight rates authorized three years ago. The petition, which listed 510 railroads, requested cancellation of the December 31, 1955, expiration date for the increases granted in ICC docket *Ex Parte* 175.

The railroads' petition was filed in answer to a petition seeking removal of the increases as they affect coal.

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